

SENATE BILL 3773

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to retention of
Tennessee HOPE scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (e):

(e)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) to the contrary, to continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution who is majoring in mathematics, nursing or engineering or enrolled in a teacher education program seeking licensure to teach mathematics or science shall continue to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply for the scholarship upon attempting twenty-four (24) or any subsequent multiple of twenty-four (24) semester hours. At the end of a semester in which such student has attempted twenty-four (24) or any subsequent multiple of twenty-four (24) semester hours, the student shall have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(2) A Tennessee HOPE scholarship student who has declared a major in any of the subjects specified in subdivision (e)(1) and who subsequently changes majors to a one not specified in subdivision (e)(1) shall be evaluated under subsection (a) for continuation of the scholarship at the first semester at which continuing eligibility for the scholarship is reviewed following the change of major

and at all subsequent semesters when continuing eligibility is reviewed; provided, that the student does not again change majors. A Tennessee HOPE scholarship student who declares a major in or changes majors to one of the subjects specified in subdivision (e)(1) shall be evaluated under subsection (e) for continuation of the scholarship at the first semester at which continuing eligibility for the scholarship is reviewed following the declaration or change of major and at all subsequent semesters when continuing eligibility is reviewed; provided, that the student does not again change majors.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911(b), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to meet the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) or subsection (e) at the end of a semester at which continuing eligibility is reviewed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) or subsection (e) as applicable may regain the HOPE scholarship if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE scholarship, meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) or subsection (e) as applicable at the end of a subsequent semester when continuing eligibility is reviewed. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time by failing to meet the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) or subsection (e) at the end of a subsequent semester in which academic qualifications are reviewed, may not regain the scholarship. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this subsection (b) for semester hours attempted in order to regain the scholarship.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911(d), is amended by deleting the language "subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2)" and by substituting the language "subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) or subsection (e)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(c), is amended by deleting the language "all requirements of § 49-4-911" and by substituting instead the language "the requirements of § 49-4-911 applicable to the student".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(d), is amended by deleting the language "§ 49-4-911(c)" and by substituting instead "§ 49-4-911(b)".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE access grant who does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student:

(A) Without financial assistance from lottery proceeds, continues to attend an eligible postsecondary institution;

(B) Meets the requirements of:

(i) Section 49-4-911(a)(1) at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), ninety-six (96) or any subsequent multiple of twenty-four (24) semester hours;

(ii) Section 49-4-911(a)(2) at the end of semester in which the student has attempted seventy-two (72) semester hours or at the end of any subsequent semester; or

(iii) Section 49-4-911(e) at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), ninety-six (96) or

any subsequent multiple of twenty-four (24) semester hours and the student is majoring in mathematics, nursing or engineering or enrolled in a teacher education program seeking licensure to teach mathematics or science; and

(C) Meets all other applicable requirements.

If, at such time, the student meets the requirements of § 49-4-915(a)(2), the student shall also be eligible for an ASPIRE award.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(c), is amended by deleting subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) If the student transfers to an eligible postsecondary institution, then the student shall be eligible academically for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; provided, that the student meets the requirements of § 49-4-911(a)(1) or (a)(2) or § 49-4-911(e), whichever is applicable to the student for the student's major and the number of semester hours that the student has attempted prior to transferring to the eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(b), is amended by deleting the last sentence of the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

A nontraditional student who does not have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours or twenty-four (24) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; provided, that the student meets the requirements of:

(1) Section 49-4-911(a)(1) at the end of a subsequent semester at which continuing eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship is reviewed under § 49-4-911(a)(1);

(2) Section 49-4-911(a)(2) at the end of any semester after the student has attempted seventy-two (72) or more semester hours; or

(3) Section 49-4-911(e) at the end of a subsequent semester at which continuing eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship is reviewed under § 49-4-911(e) and the student is majoring in mathematics, nursing or engineering or enrolled in a teacher education program seeking licensure to teach mathematics or science.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to Tennessee HOPE scholarship students for whom continuing eligibility is evaluated on or after the effective date.